

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A method of installing software in a system, comprising:
 2. during an installation procedure, providing a user prompt to request entry of a key;
 3. determining whether an entered key is proper;
 4. in response to determining that the entered key is proper, installing the software in the system and storing the entered key; and
 5. in response to determining that the entered key is not proper, installing the software in the system and enabling activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later time.
1. 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 2. executing the first code; and
 3. during execution of the first code, providing another prompt for entry of a second key.
1. 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 2. determining, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and
 3. not executing the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.
1. 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising storing the second key in a registry in response to the second key being proper.
1. 5. The method of claim 4, wherein executing the first code is performed during a startup procedure of the system.
1. 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
 2. during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a second key.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 determining whether the second key is proper; and
3 stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the second
4 key is not proper.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a second
3 key;
4 determining whether the second key is proper; and
5 stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the second
6 key is not proper.

1 9. A system comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a storage containing installation code for operating software executable by the
4 processor, the installation code when executed to cause the processor to:
5 provide a prompt to request entry of a first key;
6 determine whether the first key is proper;
7 in response to determining that the first key is proper, install the operating
8 software and store the first key in the storage; and
9 in response to determining that the first key is not proper, install the operating
10 software and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of a key at a later time.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the first code comprises startup code executed during
2 a startup procedure of the system.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein execution of the first code causes the processor to:
2 provide another prompt for entry of a second key; and
3 determine whether the second key is proper.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein execution of the first code causes the processor to
2 further:

3 in response to determining that the second key is proper, enable execution of the
4 operating software and store the second key in the storage; and

5 in response to determining that the second key is not proper, not execute the operating
6 software.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the first code is part of the operating software.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the first code is part of startup code executable
2 during a startup procedure of the system.

1 15. The system of claim 9, the storage to store a registry containing the first key stored in
2 response to the first key being proper.

1 16. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions that when
2 executed causing a system to:

3 during an installation procedure, provide a user prompt to request entry of a key;
4 determine whether an entered key is proper;

5 in response to determine that the entered key is proper, install the software in the
6 system and store the entered key; and

7 in response to determine that the entered key is not proper, install the software in the
8 system and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later time.

1 17. The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to
2 further:

3 execute the first code; and

4 during execution of the first code, provide another prompt for entry of a second key.

1 18. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to
2 further:

3 determine, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and

4 not execute the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.

1 19. The article of claim 18, wherein executing the first code is performed during a startup
2 procedure of the system.

1 20. The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to
2 further:

3 during execution of the installed software, provide a prompt of another key in
4 response to the entered key and the second key not being proper.